

**IN THE UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
FOR THE NORTHERN DISTRICT OF TEXAS
DALLAS DIVISION**

JAMES L. HOWARD, 677712,
Petitioner,

V.

**WILLIAM STEPHENS, Director, Texas
Dept. Of Criminal Justice, Correctional
Institutions Division,
Respondent.**

No. 3:00-CV-0895-M

FINDINGS, CONCLUSIONS AND RECOMMENDATION OF THE UNITED STATES MAGISTRATE JUDGE

Pursuant to the provisions of 28 U.S.C. §636(b), implemented by an Order of the Court, this case has been referred to the United States Magistrate Judge. The findings, conclusions and recommendation of the Magistrate Judge are as follows:

Type of Case: Petitioner has filed a motion for leave to file a second or successive petition for writ of habeas corpus pursuant to 28 U.S.C. § 2254.

Parties: Petitioner is a state prisoner, currently incarcerated in the Texas Department of Criminal Justice - Correctional Institutions Division (“TDCJ-CID”). Respondent is William Stephens, Director of the TDCJ-CID.

Statement of the Case: On January 4, 1994, Petitioner was convicted of aggravated sexual assault. On February 12, 1997, the Fifth District Court of Appeals affirmed the conviction and sentence. *Howard v. State of Texas*, No. 05-95-01428-CR (Tex. App. – Dallas, Feb. 12, 1997, pet. ref'd).

On April 25, 2000, Petitioner filed a federal § 2254 petition in this case. On March 30, 2001, the district court dismissed the petition as barred by the statute of limitations. On December 11, 2001, the Fifth Circuit Court of Appeals denied a certificate of appealability.

On November 13, 2013, Petitioner filed the instant motion for leave to file a second or successive § 2254 petition.

Discussion: The Antiterrorism and Effective Death Penalty Act of 1996 limits the circumstances under which a federal prisoner may file a second or successive motion for post-conviction relief. ANTITERRORISMANDEFFECTIVEDEATHPENALTY ACT, Publ. L. 104-132, 110 Stat. 1214 (1996). A defendant must show that the successive motion is based on: (1) newly discovered evidence that, if proven and viewed in light of the evidence as a whole, would be sufficient to establish by clear and convincing evidence that no reasonable fact finder would have found him guilty of the offense; or (2) a new rule of constitutional law, made retroactive to cases on collateral review by the Supreme Court. *See* 28 U.S.C. § 2244(b)(2). Before Petitioner files his application in this Court, a three-judge panel of the Fifth Circuit must determine whether the application makes the requisite prima facie showing. *See* 28 U.S.C. § 2244(b)(3)(A) and (B).

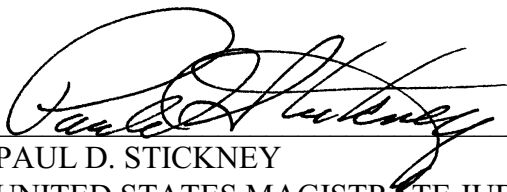
The Fifth Circuit has not issued an order authorizing this Court to consider the successive motion. Petitioner must obtain such an order before another petition for habeas relief under § 2254 is filed.

RECOMMENDATION:

For the foregoing reasons, the Court hereby recommends that the instant motion be construed as a petition for writ of habeas corpus filed pursuant to 28 U.S.C. § 2254 and that the petition be TRANSFERRED to the United States Court of Appeals for the Fifth Circuit pursuant

to *In re Epps*, 127 F.3d 364, 365 (5th Cir. 1997). The Court further recommends that the Clerk of Court be directed to open a new civil action pursuant to § 2254 (nature of suit 530) for statistical purposes

Signed this 15th day of January, 2014.



PAUL D. STICKNEY
UNITED STATES MAGISTRATE JUDGE

**INSTRUCTIONS FOR SERVICE AND
NOTICE OF RIGHT TO APPEAL/OBJECT**

A copy of this report and recommendation shall be served on all parties in the manner provided by law. Any party who objects to any part of this report and recommendation must file specific written objections within 14 days after being served with a copy. *See* 28 U.S.C. § 636(b)(1); FED. R. CIV. P. 72(b). In order to be specific, an objection must identify the specific finding or recommendation to which objection is made, state the basis for the objection, and specify the place in the magistrate judge's report and recommendation where the disputed determination is found. An objection that merely incorporates by reference or refers to the briefing before the magistrate judge is not specific. Failure to file specific written objections will bar the aggrieved party from appealing the factual findings and legal conclusions of the magistrate judge that are accepted or adopted by the district court, except upon grounds of plain error. *See Douglass v. United Services Automobile Ass'n*, 79 F.3d 1415, 1417 (5th Cir. 1996).